

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting
February 1, 2012 MINUTES
Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe De Vito Chair, Richard Dyer, Chris Fortunato, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Jeff Mace, Ellen Manning, Stephan Ross
Staff: Ruth Hoshino
Guests: Leah Castellano (YMCA), Rich Catrambone (Crime Commission), Deb Darcy (Juvenile Probation Officer), Chanda Gunn (YMCA), Andrew Messinger (Charles River Recreation), Tom Pomeroy (Intern Advisor), Dawoun Jyung (Harvard Kennedy School)
Students: Olivia DeAngelo, Zachary Eagle, Melanie Erspamer, Nadine Geller, Erin Katzeff, Jay Sobel, Sophie Veksler

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM and chaired by Joe DeVito
A vote to accept the minutes of January 4, 2012 was passed.

Treasurer's Report: The budget for FY 2012 operating budget is \$2500, a balance of \$1,381.99 remains. The revolving account balance is \$986.12.

Commission Members were given 2012 ***Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees***

Business:

- Mayor's Public Service Internship Program Update –
The weekly student intern meetings have been held at both the West Suburban YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club. New Newton North student members have been recruited.

e-CHUG (an interactive web survey that allows students to enter information about their drinking patterns and receive feedback about their use of alcohol) business cards are being distributed at the two high schools.

Plans for a fall 2012 *Youth Summit* continue.

Video recording of Teen Voices is planned for next week.

- The goal is to document teens' views about important subjects such as Stress, Time Management and Out-of-School activities, etc.
- The format will be small groups led by an interviewer with prepared questions.
- The recordings will be edited and then used at the Teen Summit to deliver what could be an authentic and powerful message. It is a way for parents and teens to connect and think about resources in Newton. There is no substitute for face-to-face human connections.

The meeting broke into groups so the interns could practice facilitating for the upcoming Teen Voices recording and they could prepare to facilitate a small group discussion at the summit. One group discussed Stress/Time Management and the other discussed Out-of-School Activities.

Summary of suggestions:

Stress/Time Management –

- Groups should have about 10 people that include kids, parents and professionals (this is for the summit)
- Stories should be shared in third person – no personal disclosures
- Printed resource list should be available
- This discussion should inform the community and raise awareness of what stresses teens.

Outside-of-School Activities –

- The group should be structured and state the goals
- Questions should be open ended
- Kids should list the type of things that are done outside of school
- A list of community improvements should be created
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The youth commission members praised the teens for being poised and creating an environment where it is easy for people to share. It is invaluable to promote civic engagement between kids and adults. It is great fun.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. **The next meeting is Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 7 PM.**
Respectfully submitted by Ruth Hoshino